

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05445 091811Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION SALT TWO GENEVA

ERDA HQ WASH

ERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CCD, PARM

SUBJ: CCD: CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS MEETINGS

1. SUMMARY: CCD COMPLETED SUCCESSFUL SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS ON JULY 8. IN ADDITION TO US AND USSR, ELEVEN OTHER COUNTRIES SENT EXPERTS. CONSULTATIONS AMONG WESTERN EXPERTS RESULTED IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FIRST-STEP AGREEMENT SHOULD COVER AT LEAST ALL LETHAL AGENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CCD HELD SUCCESSFUL SERIES OF FIVE INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS DURING PERIOD JQLY 5-8. TWENTY-TWO EXPERTS FROM THIRTEEN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05445 091811Z

AND PRESENTED TOTAL OF ELEVEN WORKING PAPERS. (SECRETARIAT

WILL PREPARE AND CIRCULATE UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF SESSIONS.)

3. US EXPERT (MIKULAK) MADE TWO SHORT STATEMENTS. IN STATEMENT AT OPENING SESSION ON MONDAY MORNING, JULY 5, HE BRIEFLY REVIEWED US WORKING PAPERS ON VERIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION OF DECLARED STOCKS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS (CCD/497), THE USE OF SEALS AND MONITORING DEVICES IN CW VERIFICATION (CCD/498), AND REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR DEFINING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS IN A CW AGREEMENT (CCD/499). AS PART OF PRESENTATION, TWO AUTOMATIC SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AND TAMPER-INDICATING FIBER OPTIC SEAL WITH A REMOTE MONITORING CAPABILITY WERE DEMONSTRATED. IN HIS STATEMENT US EXPERT ALSO STATED THAT A PROPERLY ORGANIZED PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL EXCHANGE VISITS COULD HELP TO PROVIDE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW VERIFICATION PROCEDURES WOULD OPERATE. HE SAID THAT A PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL EXCHANGE VISITS WOULD BE MOST SUCCESSFUL IF IT WERE BROADLY BASED NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION BY CCD MEMBERS, BUT ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE TYPES OF FACILITIES VISITED. THE HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT VISITS COULD BEGIN EARLY IN THE FALL OF THIS YEAR.

4. SECOND US STATEMENT WAS MADE DURING FINAL EXPERTS SESSION ON THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 8. US EXPERT STATED THAT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR CHEMICALS PROPOSED BY FRG IN 1975 WORKING PAPER WAS NOT SUITABLE AS A BWSIS FOR DEFINING THE AGENTS COVERED IN A CW AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, SAME GENERAL APPROACH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN HELPING VERIFICATION AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE WHICH DUAL-PURPOSE CHEMICALS COULD BE USED AS CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND THUS DESERVED SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM A VERIFICATION STANDPOINT. IN ADDITION US EXPERT RESPONDED TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS FROM THE SWEDISH DELEGATION. IN PARTICULAR, HE STATED US VIEW THAT EXPRESSION "ALL LETHAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS", WHICH WAS USED IN STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN ON APRIL 13, WAS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH EXPRESSION "THE MOST DANGEROUS, LETHAL MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE" USED IN THE JULY 1974 US-SOVIET SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE. US INTEREST IN TECHNICAL EXCHANGE VISITS WAS REITERATED.

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05445 091811Z

5. WITH EXCEPTION OF ITALY, OTHER MEMBERS OF WESTERN GROUP SENT EXPERTS AND PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN EXPERTS' DISCUSSIONS. IN INTRODUCTION REMARKS AT FIRST SESSION, HEAD OF FRG DEL (SCHLAICH) MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION OF FRG VIEWS ON CW VERIFICATION QUESTION, INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE, A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND AN ANNUAL QUOTA OF ON-SITE INSPECTIONS. IN FACE OF CRITICISM FROM SEVERAL DELS, FRG EXPERTS DEFENDED CLASSIFICATION

PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY FRG LAST YEAR. JAPANESE EXPERT PROPOSED THAT A WHO COMMITTEE BE ASKED TO PREPARE A TABLE OF TOXICITY VALUES FOR CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS.

6. IN EASTERN GROUP, ONLY ROMANIA AND MONGOLIA DID NOT SEND EXPERTS. SOVIET DEL HAD THREE EXPERTS PRESENT. CZECH AND SOVIET STATEMENTS WERE LARGELY RESTATEMENTS OF VIEWS EXPRESSED AT LAST EXPERTS' MEETING TWO YEARS AGO. SOVIET EXPERT REITERATED WELL-KNOWN SOVIET POSITIONS THAT NATIONAL CONTROL COMMITTEES SHOULD HAVE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR VERIFICATION AND THAT ON-SITE OBSERVATION OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION WOULD JEOPARDIZE MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL SECRETS. EAST GERMAN EXPERT PRESENTED TECHNICAL PAPER ON NEW CHEMICAL METHODS FOR DETOXIFICATION OF CHEMICAL AGENTS. POLISH EXPERT INDICATED THAT AGENTS WHICH ARE NOT SUPERTOXIC CAN BE QUITE DANGEROUS AND COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON US APRIL 13 SUGGESTION FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CW PROTECTION.

7 OF NON-ALIGNED DELS ONLY SWEDEN AND YUGOSLAVIE HAD EXPERTS PRESENT. BOTH DELS TOOK ACTIVE PART IN DISCUSSIONS.

8. US DEL USED OPPORTUNITY OF EXPERTS' MEETINGS TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF WESTERN GROUP. IN ADDITION TO MEETING OF WESTERN EXPERTS, DEL HAD BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE AND FRG. IN VIEW OF RECENT JAPANESE PLENARY STATEMENT (REFTEL GENEVA 5340) AND PRIVATE ASSURANCES BY FRG DELOFF THAT THEY WILL NOO CAUSE US ANY TROUBLE ON AGENT DEFINITION QUESTION, WE BELIEVE ALL WESTERN DELS ARE NOW WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH US VIEW THAT FIRST STEP TREATY MUST NOT OMIT ANY LETHAL AGENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 05445 091811Z

9. IN EXPLAINING BASIS FOR US APPROACH, WE TOLD FRG DELOFFS AND EXPERTS CONFIDENTIALLY THAT USSR CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE IS BELIEVED TO INCLUDE DUAL-PURPOSE AGENT HYDROGEN CYANIDE. THEY SEEMED SURPRISED AND ATTRIBUTED THEIR LACK OF INFORMATION TO POOR US-FRG COORDINATION. (APPARENTLY US BRIEFING TO CCD ALLIES ON SOVIET AUGUST 1974 DRAFT CONVENTION, HAD NOT MADE ANY IMPRESSION ON FRG.)

10. WHILE MOST DELS ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO ISSUE INVITATIONS, US PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL EXCHANGE VISITS HAS BEEN RELATIVELY WELL-RECEIVED. UK EXPERTS SUGGESTED THAT TECHNICAL EXCHANGE VISITS COULD BE INITIATED BY A CONFERENCE ON PROTECTIVE MEASURES. A SIMILAR VIEW WAS STATED BY THE YUGOSLAV EXPERTS. IN HIS STATEMENT THE POLISH

EXPERT DESCRIBED AS "INTERESTING" US APRIL 13 SUGGESTION
THAT INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CW PROTECTION
BE EXCHANGED AS A CONFIDENCE-BUILDING DEVICE. IN HIS
OPINION EXCHANGE SHOULD INCLUDE COOPERATION IN REGARD TO
PROTECTION OF THE CIVIL POPULATION.

11. NETHERLANDS, CANADIAN AND JAPANESE DELOFFS HAVE
PRIVATELY INDICATED INTEREST IN US TECHNICAL EXCHANGE
PROPOSAL AND ARE SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS. CANADIAN EXPERT
BELIEVED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE VISIT TO
CURRENTLY ACTIVE CANADIAN MUSTARD GAS DISPOSAL OPERATION
AT SUFFIELD, ALBERTA IN CONJUNCTION WITH VISIT TO US
DISPOSAL FACILITY.

12. US DEL WILL SEEK TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO
PROPOSAL FOR VISITS FROM NON-ALIGNED AND EASTERN DELS.
SEVERAL MEMBERS OF ALLIED DELS HAVE INDICATED PRIVATELY
HOWEVER, THAT FOR PROGRAM TO SUCCEED, US WILL HAVE TO TAKE
THE LEADING ROLE IN ORGANIZING IT.DALE

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